



Bristol Parks Forum

representing resident led parks groups and city wide organisations
involved in protecting and improving Bristol's green spaces

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th October 2010 at the Netham Pavilion

Attendees

AB - Alison Bromilow - RCAS, **AC** - Andre Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **AStansbie** - Angela Stansbie, **BK** - Cllr Bev Knott - Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods, **BS** - Betty Saunders - Friends of the Netham **CH** - Cheryl Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **CN** - Catherine Newman - Admin Officer (BCC), **DH** - Derek Hawkins - Friends of Stoke Lodge, **DP** - Diane Porter - Bedminster Down and Uplands Society, **ES** - Eileen Stonebridge - Friends of Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve, **FB** - Fraser Bridgeford (Chair) - Castle Park / Friends of Brandon Hill, **GB** - Gill Brown - Civic Society, **GH** - Cllr Gary Hopkins - Friends of Redcatch Park, **GT** - Gordon Tucker - Civic Society, **HH** - Hugh Holden - Civic Society, **IK** - Ian Kerr - Friends of Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve, **JC** - Jane Cunningham - Walking for Health Bristol, **JC** - Jo Curtis - Friends of St George and Friends of the Netham, **JC** - Jo Corke - Friends of St Andrews Park, **JM** - John Mayne - Friends of St Andrews Park, **JT** - Julian Thomas - Friends of Eastwood Farm, **LA** - Cllr Lesley Alexander - Activate Fishponds, **LG** - Lois Goddard - Redland Green Community Group, **LS** - Linda Stone - Ashton Vale Heritage Group, **LW** - Len Wyatt - Northern Slopes, **MB** - Mary Bannerman - Redcliffe Parade Environmental Association, **MC** - Marie Jo Coutanche - Malago Valley Conservation Group, **ML** - Mark Logan - Snuff Mills Action Group, **NV** - Nicolette Vincent - Friends of Brandon Hill, **RB** - Roland Bruce - Mina Road Park Group, **RAC** - Rob Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **RK** - Raquib Khandker - Community Development Officer (BCC), **SAC** - Susan Acton-Campbell - Friends of Troopers Hill, **SF** - Sue Flint - Friends of South Purdown, **SP** - Steve Perry - Friends of St Andrews Park, **SS** - Sally Shenton - Friends of St George Park, **TM** - Tracey Morgan - Service Director (BCC), **YL** - Yvonne Lines - Ashton Vale Heritage Group

Apologies

AS - Angela Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **DS** - Denis Stuckley - Callington Road Nature Reserve, **JCH** - Janet Carr-Hyde, **JP** - John Purkiss - Friends of Avon New Cut, **PS** - Peggy Stembridge - Avon Gardens Trust, **RB** - Richard Bland,

Agenda Item	Discussion Points/ Outcomes & Actions	Actions
<p>1.</p> <p>1.1</p>	<p><u>Area Green Space Plans (AGSP) consultation process</u></p> <p><u>Allocation of funding across NPs and within NPs</u></p> <p>Cllr Hopkins explained that the Cabinet will distribute money from disposals across NPs. The funding received from disposals in one NP area will not necessarily be reinvested in the same NP. This will ensure that all NP areas receive investment. Otherwise areas such as the inner city would receive significantly less funding as there are less opportunities to sell land in this area.</p> <p>Parks Officers and ward Councillors will then decide how and where the money should be spent with input from local communities. Through NP meetings, local people will be able to help solve local problems which will result in savings.</p>	
<p>1.2</p>	<p><u>Decisions on disposals</u></p> <p>It was questioned whether the outcomes from the consultation will have more weight than the assessments carried out by officers. Cllr Hopkins advised that all factors will be included in the report that is submitted to Cabinet.</p> <p>The report will be available to view online 7 days prior to Cabinet making their decision on th 16th December.</p> <p>BPF members requested to view the report prior to it being sent to Cabinet to check that their comments are included.</p> <p>It was suggested that all land identified for disposal is surveyed prior to Cabinet making a decision to ensure that there aren't any factors that would make it unsuitable for disposable. Cllr Hopkins advised that in this circumstance, recreation options for the site will be considered.</p>	
<p>1.3</p>	<p><u>Knowle West Regeneration Framework</u></p> <p>Paul Owens provided an update on the Knowle Regeneration Framework. The consultation starts on Wednesday 13th October for two weeks.</p> <p>This is an opportunity for the local community to look at the planned improvements for Knowle West over the next 20 years including plans for parks and green spaces in the area.</p> <p>Northern Slopes raised concerns that this was not sufficient time and the BPF agreed they would ask for the consultation period to be extended.</p> <p>AGSPs for Knowle, Filwood and Windmill Hill have been drawn up in conjunction with the Knowle West Regeneration plans. An additional AGSP drop in session has been arranged due to lack of engagement. This will be held on Monday 18th October at The Park, 12-8pm. This will be advertised in the Evening Post.</p>	

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2.	<p><u>Management review</u></p> <p>TM provided an overview of the new proposed structure for Environment and Leisure. Formal consultation with staff will take place over the next month, it is hoped that the new structure will be in place by Jan 2011.</p> <p>It is proposed that the following teams will deliver the Parks Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grounds Maintenance team managing contracts, commercial trading and in-house teams • Estates and Cemeteries and Crematories team which will also oversee the management of play • Horticultural Services team managing the nursery, tree management and greener places (allotments, Tree Bristol, etc) • Neighbourhood Engagement team, working as part of a wider Environment and Leisure team, engaging with park groups and communities and influencing budget spends. <p>The aims of the new structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to ensure that contract and in- house areas are managed consistently by making the Grounds Maintenance Manager role more manageable. • to help resolve issues quickly and efficiently, preventing issues escalating to NPs by effectively engaging with communities and empowering more staff to make decisions. <p>The current Area Park Manager (APM) role will sit within the Grounds Maintenance team, the Community Park Officers (CPO) will work as part of the Neighbourhood Engagement team. APM's and CPO's will continue to work together closely with CPO advising APM's of community priorities.</p> <p>TM acknowledged that there is still work to be done to improve how Environment and Leisure work with other departments such as Events, Highways and Housing.</p> <p>TM offered to set up workshop sessions to discuss the new structure in more detail. TM is also looking at ways to engage with the wider community on services within Environment and Leisure division.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Neighbourhood Partnerships (NP)</u></p> <p>Cllr Knott briefed the forum on the introduction and development of Neighbourhood Partnerships .</p> <p>Cllr Knott confirmed that NPs had been set up by the previous (Labour) Administration and had been developed by current admin with Council services and their budgets devolved to them.</p> <p>The following concerns and questions were raised about the management of NPs:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The management of NPs across the city is inconsistent. Members of both Dundry View and Easton NPs are finding it difficult to engage in their NP meetings. Cllr Knott explained that there are now 9 Area Coordinators in place who will be looking at ways to improve the NP process. He also suggested that individuals discuss problems with their ward Councillors. • Meetings are too long and many BPF members would prefer to only attend meetings relating to Parks It was agreed that the documents have been too long and this is being reviewed. TM reassured forum members that Parks officers would act as link between Park Groups and NPs - feeding back information from the BPF and individual park group meetings to the relevant NP. • Meetings aren't well publicised and therefore not always well attended Cllr Knott advised that the budgets recently allocated to the Area Coordinators will fund better advertising and promoting of NPs in the future. • NP boundaries prevent local people influencing decisions in other NP's. Cllr Knott confirmed that neighbouring boundaries have already worked together on business that overlaps other areas. • Will devolving budgets to NPs mean people can make decisions without the necessary expertise? Cllr Knott explained that relevant Council officers will be involved in decisions. • How will BCC ensure that professional standards are met? Councillors are expected to take into account officer professional advice which will include proper standards to be met <p>It was suggested that an additional meeting with Di Robinson, Service Director for NPs is set up to discuss these issues in more detail.</p>	
4.	<p><u>The Big Conversation</u></p> <p>It is still unclear whether BCC cuts will meet Government demands. Cllr Gary Hopkins advised that BCC has made savings so that there will not be a loss of frontline staff.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Events</u></p> <p>The following changes have been made to the event application process:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 50 people - no need to notify Parks • 50-100 people - parks permit required (not a full licence), £20 fee • 100-200 people - licence required - £20 fee • 200+ - licence required, fees negotiable • An events toolkit is now available on the BCC website covering FAQ's and factors to consider when arranging an event. 	
6.	<p><u>AGM - Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members</u></p> <p>Hugh Holden was elected Chair</p> <p>Fraser Bridgeford was elected Vice Chair</p> <p>Rob Acton-Campbell, Alison Bromilow, Roland Bruce, Nancy Carlton and Mary Bannerman form the BPF Committee.</p>	
7. 7.1	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p><u>South West Regional Meeting of Park Groups & Forums</u></p> <p>The programme for this conference is available on the 'News' page on the GSSW website at: http://www.green-space.org.uk/southwest/events/friendsconference.php</p> <p>Members that are interested in attending or require further information can email info@bristolparksforum.org.uk.</p>	
7.2	<p><u>Ashton Vale - Town Green Update</u></p> <p>For information on Ashton Vale's Town Green application see - Ash-ton Vale - Application for Town and Village Green Status</p>	
7.3	<p><u>Notice of tree felling</u></p> <p>The Natural Environment team have agreed that a notice will be put on trees that are planned to be felled.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Saturday 29th January 2010, 9.30-12.30</p> <p>Venue - TBC</p>	